

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 0146

E.O. GDS 12/31/82

TAGS: MCAF, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING: NATO AIRCRAFT
SURVIVABILITY PROGRAM, BACKGROUND AND NEXT STEPS

REFS: A. STATE 222718; B. USNATO 6110; C. STATE 003832;
D. STATE 249596; E. USNATO 0007.

SUMMARY. STARTING WITH SACEUR'S INITIAL PHYSICAL PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR AIRFIELDS, WHICH PROVIDED SHELTER PROTECTION FOR 70 PERCENT OF IN-PLACE AND DUAL-BASED AIRCRAFT EARMARKED TO SACEUR, THE PROGRAM HAS PROGRESSIVELY EXPANDED TO INCLUDE 70 PERCENT OF ALL ASSIGNED AND EARMARKED AIRCRAFT COMMITTED TO SACEUR. A SITUATION NOW EXISTS WHICH REQUIRES EXPEDITED NEGOTIATION FOR ADDITIONAL COLLOCATED BASES FOR BEDDOWN OF US REINFORCING AIRCRAFT AND AN ANALYSIS BY NATO ON THE APPROPRIATE TIMING FOR ADDITIONAL INCREASES IN THE LEVEL OF SHELTER CONSTRUCTION ENDORSED SPECIFIC ACTIONS NECESSARY TO MOVE FORWARD. THIS MESSAGE SUGGESTS FURTHER ANALYTICAL WORK IN WASHINGTON TO SUPPORT STUDIES IN NATO EXECUTIVE WORKING
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GROUP LEADING TO SPRING MINISTERIAL. END SUMMARY.

1. BACKGROUND: A. THE ARAB-ISRAELI WARS OF 1967 AND 1973
SHOWED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND.

AS A RESULT OF LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE 1967 WAR, A COMPREHENSIVE NATO PLAN, DESIGNATED SACEUR'S PHYSICAL PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR AIRFIELDS, WAS APPROVED IN 1968. IT CALLED FOR PROTECTION OF 70 PERCENT OF ASSIGNED, IN-PLACE AND DUAL-BASED AIRCRAFT COMMITTED TO SACEUR, AND IS BEING FUNDED BY THE EUROGROUP UNDER THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (EDIP) THROUGH 1975. AT THE SAME TIME SACEUR EXPRESSED AN OPERATIONS REQUIREMENT FOR SHELTER PROTECTION FOR 100 PERCENT OF SUCH AIRCRAFT.

B. SUBSEQUENTLY, EXPANSION OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES BEYOND THE 70 PERCENT CRITERION WAS PROPOSED BY SECRETARY LAIRD TO THE DPC MINISTERS AND IN JUNE 1973, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER MEASURES FOR ALL EUROPEAN BASED AIRCRAFT AND ALL US TACTICAL AIRCRAFT SCHEDULED TO DEPLOY BY M PLUS 30.

C. THE BASIC ISSUES STUDY BY THE EWG IN THE FALL OF 1973, CALLED FOR EXPANSION OF SACEUR'S PROTECTION PROGRAM TO INCLUDE 70 PERCENT OF RAPID REACTION EARMARKED AIRCRAFT SCHEDULED FOR DEPLOYMENT TO EUROPE BY M PLUS 3. AT THE DECEMBER 1973 MINISTERIAL, MINISTERS APPROVED THIS REQUEST, CITING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR NATO'S AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND, AND IN PARTICULAR AGREED TO:

(1) EXPEDITE CONSTRUCTION OF SHELTERS IN THE CURRENT PROGRAM.

(2) INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR THE REMAINING SHELTERS NEEDED TO PROVIDE 70 PERCENT COVERAGE FOR ALL TACTICAL COMBAT AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED OR EARMARKED TO THE ACE AREA, UPON CONCLUSION OF EDIP FINANCING.

(3) PLANNING BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH COUNTRIES, FOR DEPLOYMENT BASES AND SHELTER PRIORITIES FOR THESE REINFORCING AIRCRAFT.

(4) ALLOCATION OF NATIONAL FUNDS TO PROVIDE SHELTERS FOR AIRCRAFT BEYOND THE 70 PERCENT COVERED BY INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS, PENDING THE OUTCOME OF FURTHER STUDY.

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(5) IMPLEMENTATION WITHOUT DELAY OF THE ACTIVE AIR DEFENSE AND OTHER PROTECTIVE MEASURES CALLED FOR IN SACEUR'S CURRENT PROGRAM.

(6) FURTHER STUDIES ON THE DESIRABILITY AND COSTEFFECTIVENESS OF USING INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS TO PROVIDE SHELTERS FOR 100PERCENT OF AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED/EARMARKED TO ACE, AND TO PROVIDE SHELTERS FOR AUGMENTATION FORCES.

(7) ALL POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN INCREASING THE COLLOCATED BASES FOR THE BED-DOWN OF UNITED STATES AUGMENTATION AIRCRAFT AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS FOR THE NECESSARY NEW FACILITIES AT SUCH BASES.

2. CURRENT STATUS. A JCS TEAM WILL PRESENT A BRIEFING TO THE NATO EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP ON JAN 15, 1974 ON US GOALS, JCS OBJECTIVES, AND AN ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT ON AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF SHELTER PROTECTION. MISSION HOPES THAT THIS BRIEFING WILL BE USEFUL IN PERSUADING SKEPTICAL ALLIES AS TO THE SOUNDNESS OF THE US ULTIMATE GOAL OF 100PERCENT SHELTERS. MORE WILL NEED TO BE DONE, HOWEVER, TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP'S FUTURE STUDIES IF WE ARE TO REGISTER FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD THE US GOAL.

3. NEXT STEPS. FUTHER STUDIES SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN WASHINGTON ON:

A. SPECIFIC TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN ADDITIONAL INCREASES IN THE SHELTER PROGRAM AND OTHER HIGH PRIORITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS.

B. TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN ADDITIONAL SHELTERS AND OTHER AIRCRAFT SURVIVAL MEASURES SUCH AS AIRFIELD DEFENSE.

C. THE OPTIMUM LEVEL OF SHELTERS AND ASSOCIATED PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN VIEW OF THE SHORT COMBAT RANGE OF MANY SOVIET AIRCRAFT AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISPERSAL.

D. THE DESIRABILITY OF PROVIDING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SHELTERING FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF AIRCRAFT.

E. THE DESIRABILITY OF PROVIDING SHELTERS THAT CAN HOLD MORE THAN ONE AIRCRAFT.

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F. THE OPTIMUM RATE AT WHICH ADDITIONAL SHELTERS SHOULD BE BUILT IN VIEW OF THE FACTORS STUDIED AS PER SUB-PARAGRAPHS A THROUGH E ABOVE.

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